

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 EPA-04  
OES-07 /075 W  
-----023294 122206Z /63

R 121709Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0802  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 07847

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ICFTU, ELAB, ILO  
SUBJ: ICFTU EDITORIAL ON ILO

1. AN EDITORIAL IN THE JULY-AUGUST ISSUE OF "FREE LABOUR  
WORLD," MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF  
FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU), REVIEWS THE JUNE ILO CONFER-  
ENCE IN LARGELY NEGATIVE TERMS.

2. THE EDITORIAL TITLED "WHITHER ILO?", OPENS WITH THE  
CRITICISM THAT THE CONFERENCE "FAILED TO DISPEL THE  
DOUBTS ABOUT THE ILO'S FUTURE; IN FACT, IT HAS AGGRAVATED  
OUR MISGIVINGS AND FEARS." IN ITS BALANCE SHEET OF THE  
CONFERENCE, THE EDITORIAL FINDS "NOTABLE POSITIVE RESULTS  
...SUCH AS THE ADOPTION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON NURSING  
PERSONNEL; IMPORTANT PROGRESS ALSO ON TWO MEASURES...ON  
LABOUR ADMINISTRATION AND ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE  
PUBLIC SERVICES."

3. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE IS "THE DELIBERATE REBUFF GIVEN  
TO THE ALL-IMPORTANT COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF  
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STANDARDS...WHICH HAS BEEN RIGHTLY DESCRIBED AS THE  
CONSCIENCE OF THE ILO." REJECTION OF THAT COMMITTEE'S  
REPORT, SAYS THE EDITORIAL, "SHOWS THAT CERTAIN GOVERN-  
MENTS RESENT ANY CRITICISM, BUT ALSO THAT THEY ARE BENT  
ON DESTROYING THE VERY ESSENCE AND BASIS OF THE ILO. FOR  
THE ADOPTION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE  
ILO BECOMES USELESS, AND INDEED A FARCE, IF THE MACHINERY

FOR CONTROLLING THE APPLICATION OF THESE STANDARDS IS NOT  
ALLOWED TO FUNCTION."

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4. THE EDITORIAL ENDS WITH THIS SHARP CRITICISM:

"WE ARE NATURALLY VERY SHAKEN BY THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTING  
WHICH CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS A CONCERTED ATTEMPT TO CHANGE  
THE CHARACTER OF THE ILO, ITS UNIQUE TRIPARTITE NATURE  
WHICH CONSTITUTES ITS VALUE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE  
WORLD. WHILE IT MAY BE YET TOO EARLY TO ANTICIPATE THE  
POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS AND REPERCUSSIONS OF THIS MOVE,  
THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND ALL OTHER  
DEMOCRATIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS MUST FACE THE GRAVITY  
OF THE SITUATION: IF THIS IS THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, THE  
ILO WILL LOSE ITS CREDIBILITY AS AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION  
FOR THE DEFENCE OF WORKERS' RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

5. THE EDITORIAL ONLY IN PASSING REFERS TO THE U.S.

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE: "THE TENDENCY TO TURN THE ILO INTO A  
POLITICAL TRIBUNAL HAS HAMPERED THE ORGANISATION IN  
CARRYING OUT ITS NORMAL FUNCTIONS, AND IT WAS FOR THIS  
REASON THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THEY  
WOULD LEAVE THE ILO UNLESS THIS PERNICIOUS TREND COULD BE  
REVERSED SO THAT THE ILO COULD RETURN TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL  
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PRINCIPLES AND TASKS."

6. ALTHOUGH THE EDITORIAL DOES NOT SAY SO, ICFTU LEADERS  
HOPE THAT THE U.S. WILL DECIDE TO STAY IN THE ILO, AND  
HAVE CONVEYED THIS HOPE TO THE AFL-CIO BY TELEGRAMS AND  
LETTERS, AS WELL AS CONVERSATIONS WITH AFL-CIO OFFICIALS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SIL  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, ICFTU, ILO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009